THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has no proposal to empower State Governments to grant environmental clearance to natural gas based Thermal Power Projects exceeding a capacity of 500 MW.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Papikonda Sanctuary in A.P.

1647. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Sanctuaries where the Indian Wild Buffalo is protected;

(b) whether it is a fact that Papikonda Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh is a Wild Buffalo Sanctuary;

(c) whether Government have allotted funds for the Sanctuary in 2003-04; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Indian Wild Buffalo is included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and enjoys maximum protection. Wild Buffaloes are reported to be found in following National Parks and Sanctuaries:—

i. Kaziranga National Park, Assam

ii. Manas National Park, Assam

iii. Dibru Saikhowa National Park Assam

iv. Burhachapori Sanctuary, Assam

v Laokhowa Sanctuary, Assam

vi. Pabitora Sanctuary, Assam

vii. Indravati National Park, Chhattisgarh

viii. Udanti Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance is provided to Papikonda Sanctuary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". During 2003-04 Rs. 12.70 lakhs was released to this Sanctuary under the Scheme.

Dust pollution in metro cities

1648. SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI
SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans under consideration of Government to reduce dust pollution, especially in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's plan to do AWAY with the dust pollution caused by the red sand being spread regularly around Government buildings like Parliament House,. Rashtrapati Bhavan and few other buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) For controlling air pollution from various sources, including dust pollution as part of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPMWRespirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), city specific Action Plans have been prepared for Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai. These Action Plans entail issues like control of vehicular emission, industrial pollution and pollution from other human acitivities. In this regard, the Government has taken various steps to control pollution, which include enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards, improved fuel quality, use of beneficiated coal and restriction on the burning of bio-mass and bio-fuels.